

The Beard-Conan Store
Dompey, Onondaga County, New York

H.A.B.S. NY-225

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N.Y.,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
Written Historical & Descriptive Data
District of New York

Historic American Buildings Survey
Walter H. Cassebeer District Officer
84 Exchange St., Rochester, N.Y.

HABS

N.Y.

34. Pompey

2-

THE BEARD-CONAN STORE
POMPEY, ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

OWNER: Jerry Conan
Pompet, New York

OCCUPANT: U.S. Government Post Office, Pompey, N.Y.
Jerry Conan, Post Master, and General Store.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1836

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Peter and Garry Cole

PRESENT CONDITION: The building is in very poor state, the rear wall and floors of the north east part of the building having fallen away some years since. The second floor is still occupied by a tenant though the rooms in that portion of the building are not used. The roof is in very poor condition with numerous leaky places. The front porch, shown in the photograph was erected in 1898.

NUMBER OF STORIES: There is a full basement, two stories and a low storage attic.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: The foundation, side and rear walls are built of local stone in narrow rubble courses. The stone is a limestone which has weathered out to a beautiful warm brown with the appearance of warm sandstone. Chimneys from a point about seven feet above the second floor are local brick. The front of the building is coursed dressed ashlar of Onondaga limestone, probably from quarries at DeWitt N.Y. The pilasters, caps, sill and lintel courses are the same dressed stone. Wood trim material is white pine with the exception of the doors and frames on the front which are bass wood. Exposed floor joists and under floors are pine.

The painted finish on the front doors and jambs is buff. The south store interior casings, shelving and ceiling is dark brown. The balance of first floor is painted gray. The second floor is white, plastered walls being covered with wall paper. The attic is unpainted. The balance of exterior trim was gray.

OTHER EXISITING RECORDS: News Article, Syracuse Times
Re-Union of Pompey, 1871.

ADDITIONAL DATA:

Pompey was first settled by Ebenezer Butler from Harrington Conn, in 1793. It was called Butler's Hill until 1811 when the first post office was established. Daniel Wood was Post Master. The name was then changed to Pompey Hill. In its early days Pompey Hill was the most important village in the Onondaga country.

The following notes were furnished by W.J.Oley of Pompey, who is the local historian.

Previous to 1836 the site was occupied by two frame buildings owned by a man named Dunbar.

In 1832 the properties were purchased by Beach Beard who continued to conduct the general store there till 1836.

In 1836 the two buildings were demolished and the present building built by Mr. Beard with Peter and Garry Cole as contractors.

The stone was drawn by oxen from the Onondaga Indian Reservation territory except the dressed stone which was quarried at DeWitt, a town five miles distant at the foot of Pompey Hill.

From 1836 until the present day the building has served as a store, the southern portion being store proper with its shelves as at present, the northerly store being used for bartering trade with farmers. The second floor has always been living quarters. The third floor was used for storage until about 1900 when it was taken over and remodeled into lodge rooms by the local "Oddfellows", "Macabees", and used as the general meeting rooms until about 1928.

In 1839 Henry L. and Huntington Beard, Sons of Beach Beard took over the store and ran it till 1855, when it was sold to Samuel Hayden who conducted the business until 1871. Hayden moved to Syracuse where he established a furniture business. Another branch of the Hayden family settled in Rochester, N.Y. The Hayden Company of New York is the outgrowth of this branch.

In 1871 the building was transferred to Homer Pratt. Then to Edward Pomeroy, to Petrie Brothers, to Patrick Burns, in 1891, to Jerry Conan about 1892.

In 1898 Mr. Conan added the present front porch. In 1900 Jerry Conan was made Post Master. The Post Office is located in the right front corner of the southern store, next to the entrance.

Mr. Conan says that at one time the local doctor had his office in the rear of the store, occupying the portion raised three steps above the main floor.

Walter H. Cassebeer
District Officer NY2